7. It will be compulsory for a cable TV network to carry all Doordarshan signals which are available in the area through terrestrial transmitters ;

8. The distribution of programmes through cable TV networks should be brought within the definition of "Public Exhibition". This may call for making suitable amendments in related enactments ;

9. The copyright act may be suitably amended for providing distribution of programmes through cable TV networks as a distinct category of copyright ; and

10. The requests received from Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Bodies for establishment of Dish-Antenna systems to receive TV signals from foreign satellites for the benefit of foreign experts employed in these organisations may continue to be considered on case to case basis in consultation with the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs and Information & Broadcasting.

The impact of BBC (WST), Satellite T.V. and C.N.N. on Doordarshan

542. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

DR. ABRAR AHMED :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the impact of BBC world service Television (WST) the Satellite Television Asian Region, CNN etc. on our Doordarshan vi ewers ;

(b) whether Government have conducted any studies in this regard ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps Doordarshan propose to take to improve further the quality of the Doordarshan programmes ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Programmes from CNN, STAR TV etc. are available only to those viewers of Doordarshan who have installed a suitable dish antenna. Doordarshan has not contucted any study to assess the impact of these programmes on those who view them.

(c) Constant efforts continue to be made to upgrade the technology and to bring about qualitative improvement in the programme content and format of Doordarshan so as to sustain the interest of its viewers.

Implementation of Prasar Bharati Act

543. SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed a dead line to implement the Prasar Bharati Act ;

(b) whether Government propose to bring about some amendments in the Act, if so, the details thereof and by when these amendments are likely to be introduced in the Parliament ; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Committee set up by Government on competition in electronic media and what are Government's reactions thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Many essential formalities and amendments need to be completed and various steps taken before the Prasar Bharati Act can be implemented.

(c) The main recommendations of the Committee are given in the Statement.

Statement

Main Recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on introducing competition in the Electronic Media

The Committee acknowledges the need for introducing competition in the Electronic media.

2. The Committee has listed out the various options available to the Government for introducing competition, ranking them in the following order of priority :

(a) Setting up of new TV/Radio channels for regional broadcast may be allowed in the different parts of the country subject to viability of operations including suitable linkage for inter-regional network.

(b) Second channel of Doordarshan in the four metropolitan cities and additional radio channels including FM stations wherever available may also simultaneously be leased out to suitable licencees after passage of suitable legislation.

(c) Permission may be given to one agency or consortium to set up a series of transmitters in the country. [This option will rank only next to the option at (a) above.]

(d) Leasing out a particular time chunk from existing TV/Radio channels is not recommended.

(e) Option of licencees leasing a transponder on a satellite is appropriate for developmental or educational telecast and may be considered by Government when spare segment on satellite becomes available.

3. Selection of agencies for grant of licence should be done by an independent agency which could be called Broadcasting Council and be comprised of eminent public men with unimpeachable probity.

4. Organisations eligible to receive licences shold be public limited companies with major interest groups concerned with broadcasting represented in management and with open access to shareholding.

5. Cross Media restrictions to avoid monopoly over information sources suggested.

6. Preference may be given to public bodies like Universities, cooperative institutions etc. in the matter of grant of licence in their area of operation.

7. Guidelines for programmes spelt out, *e.g.* advertisements to conform to the advertisement code of AIR/Doordarshan, no programme to offend the religious sentiments of any group, prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, etc. or infringe the provisions of the copyright Act.

8. System of quality rating and procedure for redressal of complaints suggested.

9. The Broadcasting Council of India be vested, through suitable legislation, with the functions of licensing, monitoring of programmes, quality rating and redressal of complaints.

10. New legislation to govern the setting up and operation of additional broadcast channels be enacted.

Children in abysmal working conditions at Sivakasi

544. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the directive of the Supreme Court children are made to work for piece rate payments in abysma working conditions at Sivakasi; andl

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) It has been